The Importance of the Number Line in Understanding Fractions

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Why The Number Line?

Support for the Number Line

- NAEP Results
- Natural extension from students' work with fraction kits and area models
- Common Core State Standards for Mathematics

Number and Operations – Fractions

Grade 3

Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.

Number and Operations – Fractions

Grade 4

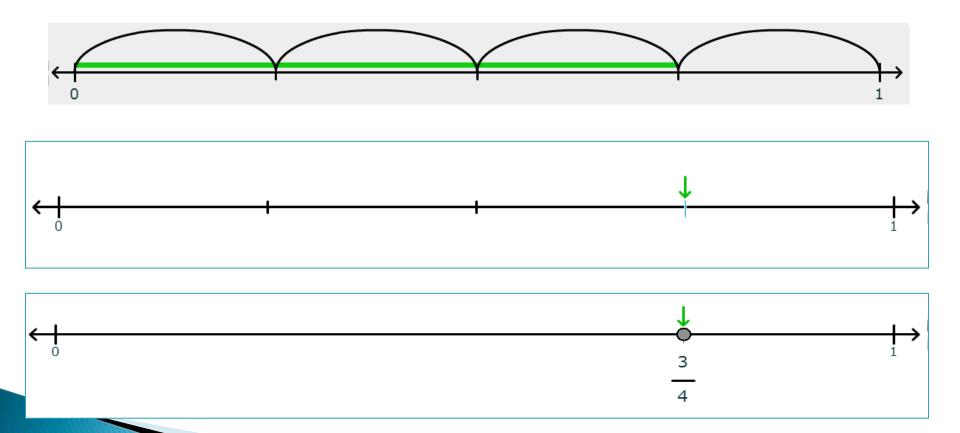
- 1. Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- 2. Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- 3. Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

Number and Operations – Fractions

Grade 5

- Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.

Multiple Representations



Understanding Fractions

Part-Whole Relationships

- Part of an object, an area
- Part of a set or collection
- Part of a distance

Create a representation that shows 1/3

Defining a Fraction

What does it mean to be 1/3?

- Measurement definition
 - A length (area/value) is 1/3 of another length (area/value) if it takes three copies or iterations of the first length (area/value) to complete the whole.
- CCSSM Definition
 - Understand a fraction 1/d as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into d equal parts; understand a fraction n/d as the quantity formed by n parts of size 1/d.

Using Free Fractions Tools

iPad

- Go to the iTunes App Store
- Download Conceptua Math

Laptop

- www.conceptuamath.com
- Student sign in (upper right corner)

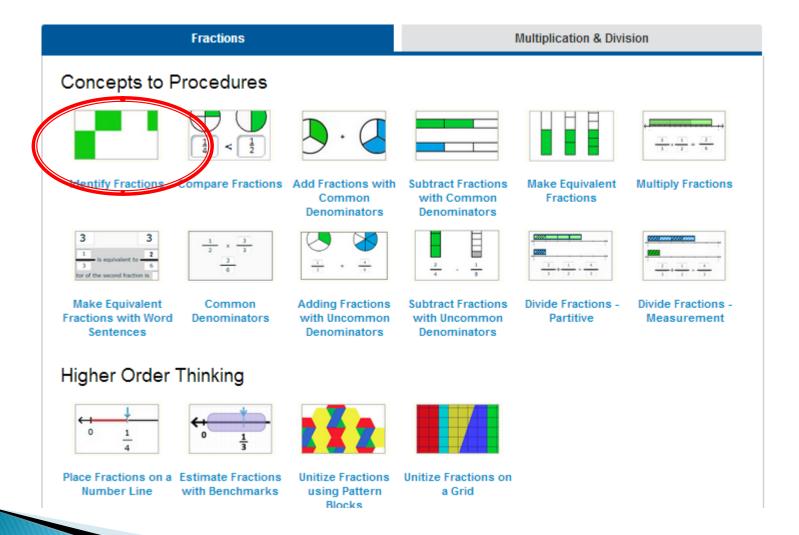
Log in

Customer: nctm2014

• Sign in: s1...s33

Password: 1234

Fractions Tools



www.conceptuamath.com

Understanding Fractions as Numbers

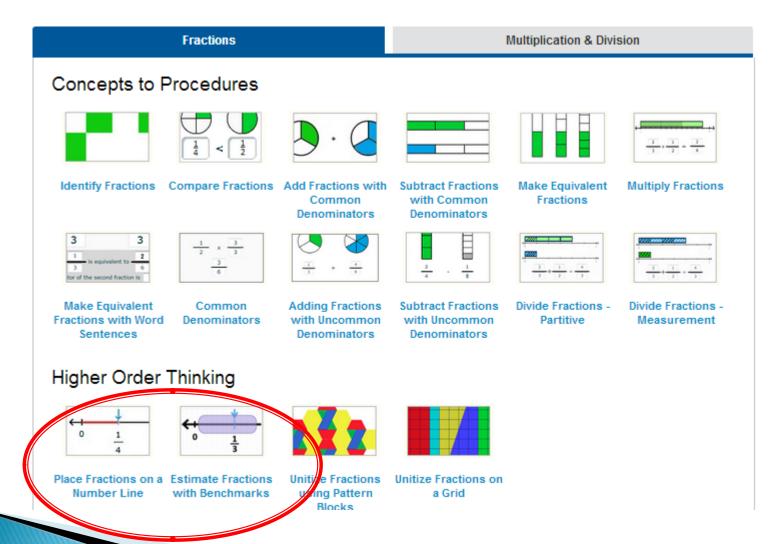
Location on a Number Line Estimation and Precision

Comparisons and Equivalence

Fraction Tents - Hands On

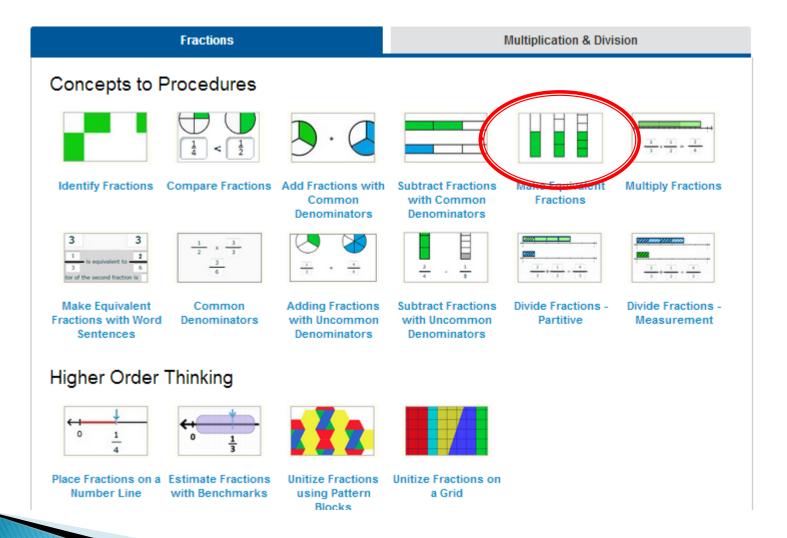
- Talk with your partner or table group about where your number should go on the number line.
- 2. Once you agree, place your number on the string.
- 3. Return to your seat and discuss the placement of the other numbers on the string. Should any of the numbers be moved? Why?

Fractions Tools

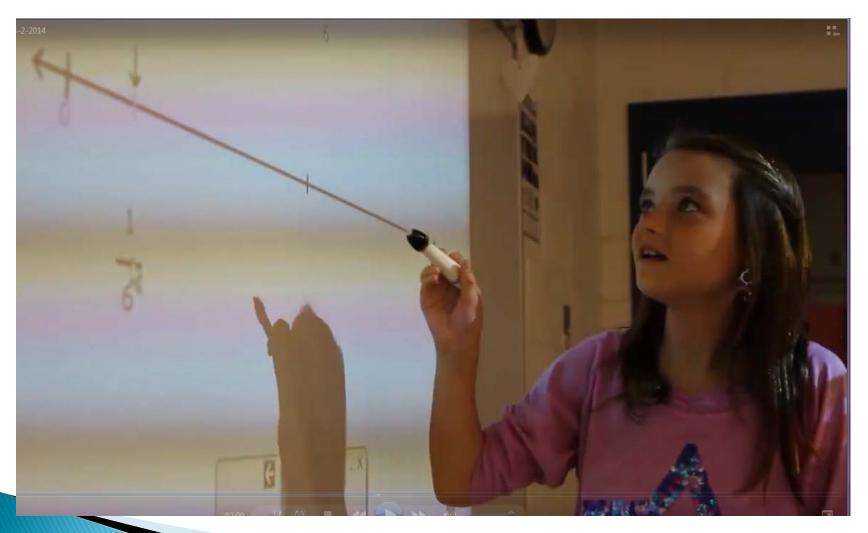


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Fractions Tools



Tools in Action



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Division with Fractions – A Very Difficult Topic

The Importance of Language Using a Double Number Line

Types of Division Situations

- Partitive Division: group size is unknown
- Measurement Division: number of groups is unknown.
 - (also called Quotative)

-Carpenter, Fennema, Franke, Levi, and Empson 1999

Partitive Division

- Arjan left his hotel, went to a jazz club, and then walked back later, a very happy person. When he checked his GPS, he saw that he had walked a total ¾ of a mile.
- How far did he walk to go to the jazz club? How long was his one-way trip?

34 shared equally among 2

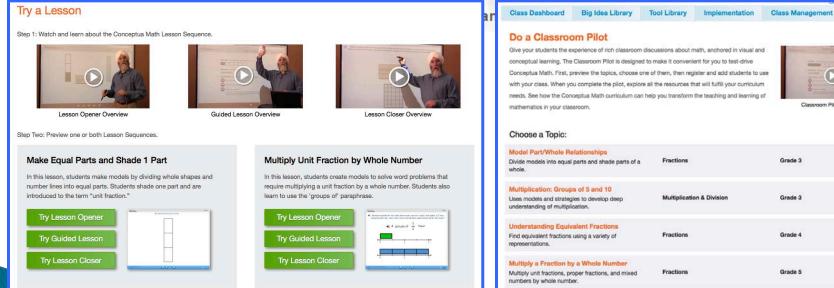
Measurement Division

- Julie has ¾ lb. of chocolate and needs ½ lb. to make her favorite fudge recipe.
- How many batches of fudge can she make with the chocolate she has?

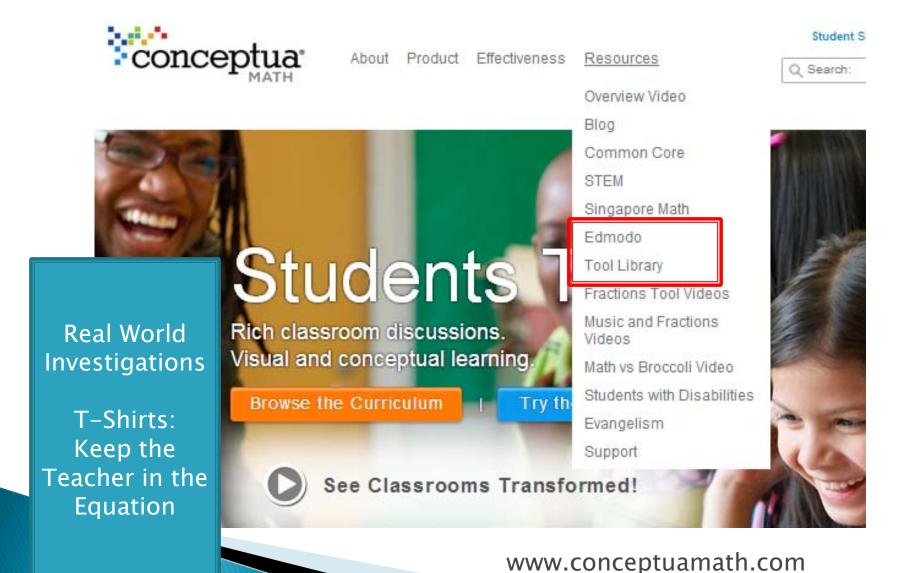
How many ½s are in ¾?

Free Materials





More Free Fractions Tools



Julie McNamara

- juliemcmath@gmail.com
- Beyond Pizzas and Pies: 10 Essential Strategies for Supporting Fraction Sense, (Math Solutions)
- Upcoming workshops:
 - 319- Understanding Fraction Computation by Applying and Extending Previous Understandings
 - Friday, 4/11, 8:00-9:15, 210 (Convention Center)

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